

## November 1<sup>st</sup> CCHA Steering Committee Minutes

Attendees: Diana Carminati (UWNWVT), Margaret Bozik (CHT), Caitlin Ettenborough (ICA), Meghan Morrow Raferty (ICA), Melissa Farr (COTs), Steve Lunna (SSVF), Rebecca Gural (SSVF), Meg MacAuglan (CVOEO), Elaine Soto (HowardCenter), Margo Batsie (STEPs to End DV), Val Russell (CEDO), Allyson Laackman (BHA), Will Towne (Spectrum), Jason Brill (VA), Erin Ahearn (CHCB/Safe Harbor), Kim Colville (VCIL), Kevin Pounds (ANEW Place), Jane Helmstetter (AHS), Emily Higgins (AHS/DCF/OEO), Jan Demers (CVOEO), Stephen Marshall (Lived Experience), Dylan F (STEPs to End DV), Chris Brzovic (CCHA/CVOEO), MaryEllen Mendl (211), Lacey Smith (BPD), Laura Wilson (Cathedral Square), Jessica Radbord (VT Legal Aid), Jill Rudge (VT Legal Aid), Travis Poulin (CVOEO), Daniel Blankenship (VSHA), Stephanie Bixby (BHA), Sarah Russell (BHA), Geoffrey Pippenger (DCF/ESD), Tracy Sweeney (VA Homeless Programs), Sarah Phillips (VT OEO), Stephanie Hartsfield (UVM/MC/CHI), Andrea Tieso (VHFA), Rebeka Lawrence-Gomez (Pathways), Lindsay Mesa (Pathways)

### 1. Introductions/Announcements:

\*Diana (UWNWVT): new representative for United Way (taking Diana's place) will be Amy Carolla. This is Diana's last Steering Committee meeting. Wish her luck on her move to the Sunshine State!

\*Geoffrey (DCF/ESD): Adverse Weather Conditions (formally known as Cold Weather Exception) starts today, 11.1.18. Updates will be posted on the state website daily.

\*Jan (CVOEO): Warming Shelters opening today and they are always looking for volunteers, especially around meal times. Shelter information:

-Shelter Director: Anne Leaver, 264.8479 (office), leaver@chcb.org

-You can sign up for shifts at: <https://mealtrain.com/93k231>

\*Meghan (ICA): Friday, Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at 10: ICA representative will be at CHT.

\*Jessica (VT Legal Aid): Introduced Jill Rudge, new fellow at VT Legal Aid, who is specializing in Mental Health and Housing. She will be reaching out to connect with individual organizations.

### 2. Balance of State Strategic Planning (Rebecca Lawrence Gomez, Pathways, Balance of State Coc)

\*Conversations have started around the idea of merging all CoC's in Vermont, to a single coalition. There are some tangible benefits to doing a merge; one of which being additional points on the NOFA.

\*A smaller group of folks is convening to talk more about what a merge could look like. At least one member of the Executive Committee will participate in the conversation.

### 3. Housing Opportunity Program (HOP) Grant Presentation (Travis Poulin, CVOEO)

#### \*Community Action

- Client focus approached when working with individuals/families that are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness (as defined by HUD).
- Long term housing solutions are working on with Housing Navigators and/or case managers.
- Financial assistance is available if eligible. It is designed to help with barriers to housing such as back rent, security deposit, etc. Every dollar is spent every year.
- Identified gaps:
  - Assistance cannot be used for sober living housing or mortgage payments.
  - Limited resources to help assist the population of people that fall in the 30-50% area median income bracket.
- Rent Right Program: educational program for renters
- All of Community Action's Housing Navigators take referrals directly from Coordinated Entry.
- Community Action also works collaboratively with the Housing Review Committee (HRC) to determine eligibility and allocation of assistance. Although Community Action has the ability to provide longer term assistance (larger financial allocations), the decision was made to target assistance towards shorter term/smaller allocations. They are mindful of the level of need vs the level of resources available.

### 4. Veterans Programs (Jason Brill, VA and Stephen Lunna, SSVF)

#### \* US Dept. of Veteran Affairs has 3 departments:

- Health Administration
- Benefits (Educational, Vocational, and Financial)
- Cemetery (136 cemeteries nationwide)

\*VT's Main VA Hospital is in White River Junction. However, there are 7 in state Outpatient clinics. Chittenden County's is Burlington's Lakeside Clinic.

\*It is clear that eligibility is difficult for folks to determine so the best place to start, is asking individuals if they served in the military. If they are, refer them to the VA.

#### \*Healthcare for Homeless Vets:

- case management services provided by social workers
- employment, education specialists, medical/nursing services, mobile Psychiatrist on staff to meet Vets in the field
- peer specialists also available
- homeless shelter (5 beds): Open Door Mission in Rutland (only one in state)

#### \*HUD VASH:

- housing first, PSH program (targeted towards homeless but homelessness not required).
- This is rental assistance with intensive case management services.
- 218 vouchers (partners are VSHA and BHA)
- Vouchers are available but staff capacity issues exist
- one identified hurdle is individuals need to qualify for the VA healthcare program to be eligible for HUD VASH

\*GPD (Grants Per Diem) Program:

- 65 beds designed for homeless individuals
- residential stability is the goal
- Although the VA is the funding source, the programs (see handout) decide who get the bed
- 2 year (max) timeline for the program

\*VT Veterans Committee:

- All Vet service providers participate on this committee
- The process of creating a more streamlined approach (through Coordinated Entry) for Veterans to access services is being worked on. Funding available for a full time, paid position. HMIS will be used; nationally, they used USICH benchmarks to meet functional zero status in the state.

5. Committee Updates:

\*Coordinated Entry (Chris B):

-Funding is being pursued (through the Funders Collaborative) to get the assistant admin position started before the start of the new funding cycle. The funding will go towards a part time position as well as bringing in a consultant to assist on stream lining the process. There is a question as to whether or not there is funding within CCHA to assist.

-Chris is looking for the Steering Committee to assign a person from the Alliance to assist with this process.

**VOTE:** to allow CVOEO to move forward (with the full support of the Alliance) to look for funding for Coordinated Entry Assistant.

Motion: Margaret Bozik (CHT)

Seconded: Sarah Philips (OEO)

Yay: 18 Nay: 0 Abstention: CVOEO

**\*\*\*\*MOTION PASSED\*\*\*\***

\*Strategic Planning (Diana):

-Vote in December to adopt plan that was presented today, as well as, what are priorities are for the next three year cycle

-Started last year (second year of our three-year plan). Two parts to the plan:

-organizational development (to grow the Alliance)

-our strategic plan (mutually reinforcing activities with identified priorities of Coordinated Entry and Housing Retention

-Through a survey process completed by nine community members, 18 strategies identified. The tool to evaluate the strategies assessed for urgency, impact, and whether or not the strategy was required.

6. Schedule and Agenda for December Steering Committee Meeting

\*Strategic Plan vote

\*PIT count update

\*HOP presentation

\*Draft letter for future requests of support (presented by the Ranking Committee)